

Formative years at MSU sparked Judge David Holton's successful career on the bench

January 15, 2020
62



David Holton c. 1983

Recently retired **Judge David Holton (84)** didn't need perfect vision to see his potential for success in the field of law. In fact, since Holton lost his eyesight at age 10 due to a brain tumor near his optic nerve, he didn't need to see at all.

What Holton believes helped him to see that potential more than anything was being in the right place at the right time around the right people.

The place was Morehead State University. Holton's parents dropped him off as a freshman at Alumni Tower with his trusty guide dog Simon in tow.

"It was up to us to make it or break it," he recalls.

The time was during his four years as an undergraduate student. Within two weeks on campus, he was elected as a freshman senator in student government. He had a strong interest in public policy and found several avenues for it at MSU, whether he was collaborating statewide with other members of student government organizations, delivering keynote addresses or even leading marches for increased higher education funding and meeting with then-Governor Wallace Wilkinson.

"My dog and I led the damn march," he said.

The people were members of the MSU Board of Regents. Holton already had an interest in attending law school and when he was elected student body president as a senior during the 1983-84 academic year, he was able to serve as the student representative on the board alongside the types of people he one day hoped to become.

"Not many 21-year-olds get the opportunity to sit on the board of a university and observe the administration of a public institution of higher learning," Holton, 59, recalled. "I was serving with very successful businessmen, with a respected judge on the board and other professionals to guide and lead the University. We even hired the new president of the University (Dr. Herb. F. Reinhard Jr.). That was a real crucial year in my development."

Holton would later go on to earn his Juris Doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law and return to home to Louisville to open a private practice and serve in the courtrooms of Jefferson County for 28 years. First, he was a prosecutor for the Jefferson County Attorney's Office and after 19 years of practicing law, he was appointed by Governor Steve Beshear to serve as the Jefferson District Court Judge in April 2008, getting re-elected without opposition in both 2010 and 2014. During his time on the bench, he was the state of Kentucky's first blind judge.

"Still the only one, by golly!" Holton said jokingly with a hint of pride. "I tell folks I had to do my job right so I wouldn't be the *last* blind judge in Kentucky."

Through his schooling and his career, Holton's disability only helped to instill in him a work ethic that served him well and allowed him to use his position on the

bench to serve those less fortunate and apply the law with equal parts fairness and compassion.

In 2012, Holton founded the Veteran's Treatment Courts to provide mental health services to veterans and keep them accountable during their occasionally troublesome transition to civilian life. In November 2016, Holton became a judge in the juvenile court. He can still recall the sound of children being escorted to his courtroom in handcuffs and shackles, often for low-level offenses. It ultimately led to Holton putting a stop to the practice except in the most special cases to account for public safety.

"It didn't sound right," Holton said of the literal sound of the shackles on juvenile offenders. "I had 12, 13, 14, 15-year-old kids in there and at times, the chains were probably heavier than they were. To me, the keep them shackled and chained in their minds was just going to perpetuate their image of someone charged with a crime. I wanted to show them I had more respect for them than that."

Holton said there was a time early on in his career when his blindness proved to be a detriment. "It's not been a bowl of cherries, brother," he said. However, when Holton served on the bench, his inability to see only helped him become a better listener when he takes in the information of a case.

"In terms of the judicial position, I think it was a positive because I wasn't prejudice of appearances or what someone was wearing or mannerisms," he said. "I based what I did on the law and what was in the record. To me, it was an advantage because I wasn't distracted by outside factors."

Holton retired as the Jefferson County District Judge in September 2017 and was named Judge of the Year by the Louisville Bar Association that same year. While he said the last few years have been less stressful (he's had more time to play his guitar, fish, travel or go to his lake house), they haven't been lacking in activity.

Holton has returned to his private practice. At the time of this interview, he had four cases in court the previous day and three lined up for the next day.

"I'm anything but retired. You should see the stack of files we have," he said.

Holton said he missed the special bond that comes from the attorney/client relationship and the feeling he gets of helping a client work through a problem. He said whether it's his Christian faith or having to overcome extraordinary circumstances in his own life, he has always felt an obligation to serve others.

“For some reason, God blessed me with some abilities and talents, and I want to use it to give back with other people,” he said.

Holton said he will continue his private practice and may venture into advocacy or running again for public office (he ran and lost in primaries running for state legislature positions in 1996 and 2000). For now, Holton walks the steps to and from the courthouse with his seeing-eye dog Rocky guiding his steps, adorned with his standard service-dog vest and a Morehead State leash. It seems fitting, since Holton’s love for his alma mater is due to an experience that seemed to truly guide him to where he is today.

“I have a wonderful connection to it because of these wonderful things that happened to me when I was there,” Holton said. “It formed who I am. I felt like I got a million-dollar education from Morehead State and it wasn’t just in the classroom, it was in life. I got an advanced degree in life from Morehead State.”

To learn more about MSU’s legal studies program, contact the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies at hpil@moreheadstate.edu, 606-783-2655 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/legalstudies.

McKay uses his legal experience to help others with estate planning and probate law

January 15, 2020
159



Bernard "Bernie" L. McKay (91, right) is pictured with Kayla Bowen (19, left) at MSU's Spring 2019 Commencement Ceremony. Bowen graduated with a

Bachelor of Science in Psychology and was the first recipient of the Bernard L. McKay Award for Excellence for LGBT Scholars.

Losing a loved one is difficult and issues involving that person's financial affairs may compound an already stressful circumstance. By helping people through these difficult times is **Bernard "Bernie" McKay (91)** has found his calling.

As an attorney for Frost Brown Todd, LLC, in Cincinnati, McKay specializes in estate planning, trust and probate law. He helps people walk through the process of settling financial matters upon incapacitation or death and all the tax hurdles that come with it, including charitable contributions and family succession plans. It's the field of law McKay envisioned himself practicing during his undergraduate years at Morehead State University.

McKay considers it an honor to be there for families in these moments.

"I've been in hospital rooms where people are on their death beds. It's a sacred position because they have to trust you," McKay said. "You deal with all types of people and it's meaningful."

Growing up in Maysville, Kentucky, as one of nine brothers, Bernard "Bernie" McKay had an interest in law from a very early age but was content not to pursue it.

"I really didn't believe I could do it because none of my family were lawyers and I just thought that was something that was out of reach for us," he said. "That wasn't in my future."

He knew he wanted to go to college since many of his brothers either attended or graduated from nearby Morehead State University. Even as he admired the work of his town's well-known attorneys like the late Bernard Hargett and the late Johnny McNeill, he was content to capitalize on his strengths in math and go to college to become an accountant.

His first real-world experience crunching numbers was helping his father, Patrick McKay Jr., and his mother, Jane, manage the books of their combined photography and flower business in high school. It was also the first time he got the unexpected push from his father to try being a lawyer during a disagreement they had at his business

"He said, 'You should go down this road,'" McKay recalled. "I remember, my own father wants me to be a lawyer. That gave me permission...let's go down this path."

McKay received a full-tuition scholarship to MSU. On the way to earning his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1991, McKay became a member of Theta Chi Fraternity in his junior year and was elected vice president of MSU's Student Government Association (SGA) his senior year. He said he always felt a sense of community and connection with the faculty, staff and administration, whether it was MSU retiree **Susette Redwine (78)** inviting SGA officers over to her house for dinner or seeing how then-President Dr. C. Nelson Grote greeted MSU students on campus by name.

“BEFORE I WENT, I JUST FELT LIKE I WAS GOING TO GET AN EDUCATION AND IT WAS STRICTLY BUSINESS, BUT WHEN I GOT THERE, THE PEOPLE CARED ABOUT MORE THAN JUST MY EDUCATION. ALL THOSE PEOPLE DID IT IN THEIR OWN WAY...ENCOURAGING ME AND JUST HELPING ME BELIEVE IN MY ABILITY.”

-Bernard McKay

McKay started to realize his potential to get accepted into law school in the spring semester of his junior year. After secretly taking the LSAT exam, he got his acceptance letter. He enrolled at the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University (NKU) in Highland Heights, where he graduated in 1994. After graduation and through his connections he made at NKU, he was hired across the Ohio River at Frost Brown Todd, LLC, in Cincinnati, where he has practiced law for the past 25 years and has been named The Best Lawyers in America list from 2006 to 2019. He believes he excels in an area an area of law that caters to his strength with numbers and with people.

“I needed a human element of the practice...but I also wanted to have the technical,” he said. “It was kind of good for my personality and background.”

As someone who spent his law career helping others in a time of need, he started to ponder his legacy and wonder how he could help students from his alma mater in financial need while maintaining that human connection. This led to the establishment of the Bernard L. McKay Award for Excellence for LGBT Scholars in 2014.

Scholarship criteria include recipients being incoming undergraduate students who self-identify as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) who have demonstrated a commitment to equality for the LGBT

community through either membership in gay-straight alliances, participating in community projects or similar actions indicating their dedication to improving equality for the LGBT community. Preference is given to LGBT students from Mason, Bracken, Robertson and Fleming counties.

McKay admits he struggled growing up gay in a Roman Catholic household in a small town. He threw himself into his schooling and didn't feel comfortable coming out later in life. He always believed his sexual orientation potentially presented a roadblock to his career prospects. His establishment of this scholarship was a way to give LGBT students in Kentucky a better chance for success.

"I wanted to help highlight the LGBT issue and I wanted to recognize and award somebody because they were LGBT, not despite it," he said. "I wanted to kind of say, you can do whatever you want. If you want to be a lawyer, you want to be a nurse, you want to be a social worker, LGBT isn't a barrier for that."

McKay has also taken an active role in the scholarship, serving as a mentor and maintaining contact with the scholarship recipient and their family through the student's four years as an MSU undergrad.

"That aspect, I didn't realize how rewarding it was going to be for me," he said. "Don't wait 'til you're dead (to establish a scholarship), do it now. It will give you so much joy and pride and it will make your darkest day bright."

McKay said his interactions with the people he encounters in his practice and the students he helps at MSU are transactional. Whether it's giving his money, his abilities, his time, his attention or his empathy, he is getting as much out of it as he is putting in.

"I did consciously choose to do things that I thought were meaningful to me because this is my path and part of this is showing gratitude," he said. "I'd like people to realize that I hope by doing good and helping others, I'm showing my gratitude for that and setting an example for those to help follow."

Part of the reason why McKay is so fond of MSU is because attending is a family tradition. He has several brothers that are MSU alumni, including **Leo A. McKay (79)**, **Joseph G. McKay (80)**, **W. Dennis McKay** -director of MSU at Mt. Sterling **(86)**, **Victor C. McKay (88)** and the late **Patrick J. McKay IV (89)**. He also has nieces and nephews that are either MSU alumni or current MSU students, including **Jacob A. McKay (15)**, **Allison McKay (16)**, **William McKay (18)** and Victoria McKay, a senior from Maysville.

For more information on this scholarship, or to establish your own, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email giving@moreheadstate.edu or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu to contribute.

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Morehead State University has given tens of thousands of proud Eagle alumni the education, skills and experience to succeed after college. Since Statement Magazine regularly highlights the achievements of alumni, faculty, staff and students, we created a space for Eagles to share their success and accomplishments with our One Eagle Family.

Class Notes is where you can see career and important life updates from Eagles in different graduating classes while allowing you to tell your story and inform fellow Eagles on developments in your professional career.

To view Eagle Class Notes and to submit your own, go to alumni.moreheadstate.edu, click on "Connect with Alumni" and select "Class Notes."

Alumnus and former regent, **Patrick Eugene "Pat" Price (71)** died Sept. 9, 2019.

Born Feb. 29, 1948, he was the son of the late Eugene Blake Price and Lenore Gidding Price and was married to Shirley Justice Price.

Price was a 1971 graduate of Morehead State University and was honored to serve the University as a member of its Board of Regents for nine years. He was a 1974 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law. He returned to Fleming County after graduation and practiced law with the firm of Suit, McCartney, Price, Price & Ruark for 45 years, until his death. He was assistant Fleming County attorney for 43 years and served as a special justice to the Kentucky Supreme Court. He was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves for 10 years, was a member of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District Board for more than 30 years, was a member of the Fleming County Rotary Club, and was a member of the Fleming Masonic Lodge No. 112.

In addition to his wife, Price is survived by his children, Eugene Blake (Jill) Price II; Gena Price (J.R.) Barker; Jeffrey (Crystal) Earlywine and Jennifer Earlywine;

a sister, Elizabeth "Bibbie" Price (James) Emmons; a brother, John C. (Connie) Price; his grandchildren, Caroline Price, Sadie Price, Ella King, Patrick King, Lily Barker, Isaac Earlywine, Lucas Earlywine, Lea Applegate Elliott and Robert Applegate.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Carol Jordan Price, and a brother, Richard Bradley Price.

Price was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree during the fall 2019 commencement ceremony.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Patrick E. Price Scholarship Fund, C/O the MSU Foundation, 121 East Second Street, Morehead, Kentucky 40351. Donations may be made online at alumni.moreheadstate.edu/patprice.

Session looks to build connections between veterans and community

January 15, 2020

42



Dr. Silas Session

Dr. Silas Session had a long journey to becoming Morehead State's new director of military initiatives that began when he was in middle school in Charleston, South Carolina. He befriended some high school students who were members of the Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC). Once he got to high school, he joined the organization himself.

"That really started my love for the military," Session said. "I can see myself on campus one afternoon when I was in high school, and that's when I made the decision that I wanted to be an Army officer."

After high school, Session attended The Citadel, where he earned a degree in political science and government. The Citadel is unique from other military colleges. Cadets can enter any branch of the military after graduation or not enter the military at all. However, cadets are held to strict military standards, Session said.

"In addition to studying and the regimen of a normal college, we wore uniforms, we had drill and inspection and [physical training] P.T.," he said. "It wasn't easy, but the difficulty was a blessing and it was part of the enjoyment of the experience." Session added he held rank and leadership positions the entire time he attended The Citadel and said those responsibilities helped shape his leadership development and personal growth.

After graduating, Session went through boot camp and was stationed at Fort Campbell as part of the 101st Airborne Division Artillery, and he considers that his best assignment. After training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Session was stationed at Fort Hood as part of the 82nd Field Artillery Battalion. Session was stationed at Fort Hood for eight years and during that time, he was deployed to Iraq twice and took his first company command, leading the forward support company of the battalion. In that position, Session oversaw logistics, transportation and maintenance for the battalion. Ever up for a challenge, Session spent a year in Command Staff General College at Fort Leavenworth, while at the same time earning his master's degree in adult education from Kansas State University.

"That was difficult because it was almost like doing two master's programs at once, but I enjoyed it," he said.

Session's last assignment was at Fort Knox, where he was a battalion executive officer and operations officer for the One-Six Field Artillery Battalion, and he said he finds it interesting he began and ended his 20-year military career in Kentucky.

After retiring from the military, Session worked as a senior associate for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and as director of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet before coming to Morehead State in August 2019. He said several factors aligned that brought him to MSU.

*IT WAS A BLESSING OF TIMING AND THE OPPORTUNITY HERE.
I'M GLAD TO BE HERE AND DO WHAT I CAN TO PROVIDE A
GREAT ATMOSPHERE FOR VETERAN STUDENTS.*

– Dr. Silas Session

Session said the thing he likes best about Morehead State is that it offers students opportunities comparable to larger schools but has a small student-to-teacher ratio, which is particularly beneficial to veteran Eagles who oftentimes aren't stereotypical college students.

"They're nontraditional students. Some of them haven't been to school in a while and some of them have to work a little harder at some of the general education requirements, as many other students do," Session said. "MSU has so many high-ranked programs, like space systems engineering and nursing, that are really attractive to or really cater to the military student."

Session said one of his goals is to connect military and veteran students and military dependents to one another and the community more.

"I'm looking at what we have and I'm taking advantage of it, but I also want to strengthen the connection with students more," Session said. "I want to connect the student body with each other more and have all who are connected to the University not only say 'we honor veterans,' but to really put faces to who they're honoring. I want them to see those student veterans."

Session added he wants to work more closely with the Office of Enrollment Services to aid with recruiting veterans because MSU has a great support program in place to help them succeed in college. He also wants to work to strengthen connections between MSU and the military bases, National Guard units and veterans' resources in the state. He said veteran students could provide concrete examples to other students about how they can apply what they learn in the classroom to the real world.

"Some of the things they study are things these veterans have done in real-world, sometimes wartime, environments, and I think that adds real value," he said. "The veterans will leave here with a great education, but shame on us if we let them leave here without taking advantage of some of the skills, experience and knowledge they have. Veterans bring great value to wherever they go due to their comprehensive experience."

Military students, veteran students and military dependents are welcome to visit the Lt. Col. Alan Baldwin Veterans Center, located in 304 Breckinridge Hall, to learn more about the resources available to them. To learn more, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/veterans, email veterans@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-5226.

Eagles Sutherland and Moon bound for professional sports leagues



Former Morehead State University basketball standout **Xavier Moon (17)** and former MSU football star **Jake Sutherland (18)** are taking the athletic abilities they first displayed as Eagles and using them to soar to the professional ranks.



Xavier Moon

Moon has agreed to a standard contract with the Toronto Raptors' NBA G-League affiliate, the Raptors 905. The name "905" refers to the local area code of the suburban Greater Toronto Area. The hoops club fields their competition at the Paramount Fine Foods Centre in Mississauga, Ontario. By adding Moon, Raptors 905 will look to get back to the top of their class, having won the league championship in 2016-17 and taking runner-up honors in 2017-18.

A native of Goodwater, Alabama, his expeditions after his most recent stint saw him win League Player of the Year honors with the Edmonton Stingers of the Canadian Elite Basketball League. Moon averaged nearly 20 points and six assists per contest while connecting on 43% of his attempts from behind the arc.

The Stingers finished with the second seed in the league playoffs, losing in the semifinals to eventual league champion, Saskatchewan Rattlers, led by former Morehead State center Chad Posthumus. Before that, Moon began his professional endeavors with the London Lightning of the National Basketball League of Canada (NBLC), also based in Ontario.

Moon graduated from Morehead State University in May 2017 with a bachelor's degree in exercise science.

As a senior at MSU, Moon took home First-Team All-Ohio Valley Conference honors, started in all 30 games and averaged 16 points and five assists per game while shooting 41% from long range. His scoring acumen is not lost on Eagles' fans, who witnessed Moon record double-figure scoring performances in 25 of 30 tilts in his senior campaign, eclipsing 20 markers on six occasions.

Additionally, he tabbed what was believed to be the first-ever triple-double in Morehead State men's basketball history when he logged 25 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds versus Central Arkansas on Dec. 19, 2016, in Johnson Arena. Moon outdid himself only one other time, pouring in a career-high 26 points at Austin Peay on Jan. 19, 2017, in Clarksville. He scored 21 of those 26 in the second half, finishing 10-of-16 from the field, 6-of-10 from three-point land.



Jake Sutherland

As for Sutherland, he saw his name in the public eye as the New York Guardians selected him in the 2019 XFL Draft.

The revival of the XFL will see eight teams play a 10-game schedule beginning in February. Other organizations include the Dallas Renegades, Houston Roughnecks, Los Angeles Wildcats, Seattle Dragons, DC Defenders, St. Louis Battlehawks and Tampa Bay Vipers. The New York Guardians will play their home games at Met Life Stadium and be coached by former New York Giants offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride.

The 6-foot-5 Sutherland is a tight end who finished his MSU career in 2017. He hauled in 53 passes for 515 career yards and scored five touchdowns – all during the 2016 and 2017 seasons.

A native of Ortonville, Michigan, he also made 29 career tackles on special teams and blocked one kick. Sutherland was also a three-time Pioneer Football League Honor Roll member and was named to the Academic All-PFL Second Team as a senior in 2017. He graduated in May 2018 with a bachelor's degree in exercise science.



For more information on MSU athletics, visit www.msueagles.com.

Quillen lands full scholarship to Baylor University School of Law

January 15, 2020
28

Before becoming an undergraduate student at Morehead State University, **Katie Gabbard Quillen (19)** considered becoming everything from a veterinarian to an optometrist. In a lot of ways, her pursuit of those fields came partly from her interests in helping animals and others but also from rebelling against what others thought she should be.

"I had always been told that I would make a great lawyer," she said. "I like to argue, I like to read, and I like to write and those are the main skills of lawyers, so I've been told."

Thanks to her experience at MSU, Quillen found a passion for the field of law that not only led to her earning a bachelor's degree in legal studies with a minor in Spanish, but it also led to her landing a full scholarship to Baylor University School of Law in Waco, Texas.

Long before becoming a law school student in the heart of the Lone Star State, Quillen grew up in West Liberty where the campus of Morehead State University

is a bit of an “extension of home” as both her parents and grandparents attended MSU (her younger brother, Victor Jones III, is a current MSU student). She also visited campus in high school traveling to participate in junior pro basketball games held at MSU.

High school wasn't a place she stayed at for long because of her aptitude for academics. She read all the “Harry Potter” books until they were falling apart in the second grade and was reading at a 12th-grade reading level as a fifth grader. She learned of an opportunity to graduate from Morgan County High School early, received a scholarship opportunity and couldn't pass it up.

“I decided to enter the adult world as soon as I could,” she jokes.

For Quillen, MSU was the only school she applied to and attended on scholarship. She liked the size of the campus and the proximity to her hometown. Even though she was initially a chemistry major, she soon liked the field of law thanks to a First-Year Seminar class taught by legal studies professor and associate dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr. Dianna Murphy that focused on the problems with eye-witness testimony in court cases.

“THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD COME IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO WAS A LAWYER AND WHO WAS SHOWING ME THINGS THAT ARE REALLY IMPORTANT. IT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS MORE THAN JUST ON AN INDIVIDUAL LEVEL. YOU COULD CHANGE SOCIETY FOR THE BETTER AND THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS KIND OF EYE-OPENING TO ME.”

– Katie Quillen

Quillen changed her major to legal studies and excelled in her field of study, whether she was conducting research with Murphy on the probate system or getting a primer on briefing cases through the constitutional law classes of assistant professor of legal studies L. Joe Dunman. She also met her future husband, **Henry Quillen (17)**, at MSU and when he went to Texas to attend graduate school, she knew she didn't want to spend any additional time away from him when she attended law school. Not only was she accepted into the Baylor University School of Law, but she also received the school's Dean's Academic Excellence Scholarship, a full-tuition scholarship valued at approximately \$180,000.

Even though Quillen is doing well as she completes her first year of law school, she's already thinking of ways to give back to her Kentucky community when she begins to practice law. She has interests in appellate advocacy, along with trust and estate law and a "soft spot" for criminal law. She is even thinking about the possibility of opening multiple pro bono clinics in the Eastern Kentucky region she calls home. More than anything, inspired by her research at MSU, she wants to help make quality legal representation less of a hurdle for low income individuals.

"I've seen a lot of people be impacted by not having the best access to the justice system in particular and I think it's terribly unfortunate," she said. "I grew up well below the poverty line and having the opportunities to change my life for the better and make my life better, I'm very appreciative I've had that opportunity and I want to extend that opportunity in ways that matter to them."

To learn more about MSU's legal studies program, contact the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies at hpil@moreheadstate.edu, 606-783-2655 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/legalstudies.

Morehead State celebrates Homecoming Weekend 2019

January 15, 2020
271

Students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Morehead State University returned and reconnected to celebrate the blue and gold as One Eagle Family during MSU's annual Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 18 and 19, 2019.

"Homecoming 2019 was an amazing gathering of Eagles on a perfect weekend," said **Mindy Highley (91)**, assistant vice president for alumni relations and development. "Alumni returned to reminisce about their time on campus and to connect with today's students. Each year at this time, thousands of people come back home to Morehead State and prove true the saying 'Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle.'"



Front row: 2019 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees Annette Graham (85), Steve Inskeep (90) and Wayne Mincey (79). Back row: MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan, 2019 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees Shawn Armstrong (95), Katelyn Barbour Sallee (09), David Neely (72) and 2019 Founders Award for University Service winner Dr. Gerald DeMoss (66).

Dr. Gerald DeMoss (63) was the recipient of the MSU Founder's Award for University Service. DeMoss was a respected member of the Morehead State faculty for 42 years. He joined the faculty as a professor of biology and served in other leadership roles, including the department chair of Biological and Environmental Sciences, dean of the former College of Arts and Sciences and dean of the College of Science and Technology. After retirement, he returned to the University to assist with administrative positions, including acting provost and vice president for academic affairs. [View video](#)

Three people were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. They were:

- **Dr. Annette Graham (85)** is a successful administrator in the culinary industry. From her beginnings in the restaurant world as a manager at the Brass Eagle restaurant, a Morehead historic staple, she

has risen through the ranks and is currently the dean of the School of Business and Management at The Culinary Institute of America in New York City. [View video](#)

Steve Inskeep (90) has traveled across the world as host of Morning Edition on National Public Radio (NPR), where he has interviewed presidents, congressional leaders and told passionate stories of everyday people across all continents. He is also a published author of two books, with a third on the way. [View video](#)

Wayne Mincey (79) has had a successful career in strategy, operations, finance, business development, and mergers and acquisitions for nearly 40 years in North America, Europe and Asia. His professional experience ranges from start-up ventures to \$5 billion public companies. He retired as executive chairman of Market Track, LLC, the last company he led in 2017. Currently, he serves as a senior advisor to Norwest Venture Partners, as a board director for multiple private equity-backed companies and is directly involved in several start-up endeavors. [View video](#)

In addition, three alumni were also inducted into the MSU Athletic Hall of Fame. They were:

- **Shawn Armstrong (95)** was a vital member of the MSU Men's Golf team in the early 1990s. Under the leadership of Coach Rex Chaney, Armstrong was a member of the 1993 OVC Champion team. The following year in 1994, he finished only one stroke behind the winner of the OVC Tournament and, as a result, was named All-OVC. [View video](#)
- **David Neely (72)** was an accomplished high jumper in the Morehead State Track and Field program from 1969-1972. The first-ever field-only athlete to be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame, he represented MSU at the NCAA Championships and the United States Track and Field Federation Championships and was named All-OVC Conference three times in his career. [View video](#)
- **Katelyn Barbour Sallee (09)** was a standout member of the Women's Volleyball team from 2005 to 2008. A record-holder and an All-American, she was one of the best volleyball student-athletes ever to grace the program. She still holds multiple records at MSU and, following her college career, she has gone on to enjoy a successful career as a high school volleyball coach. [View video](#)

Notable Alumni Award recipients for 2019 were:



President Jay Morgan (center) and Jason Marion (04, right), president of the MSU Alumni Association, present the Notable Alumni Award to Gena Boyle Burger (04).



Maddie Rae

Wells (left) accepted the Notable Alumni Award on behalf of her father Jesse Wells (08).

- **Gena Boyle Burger (04)** currently serves as the deputy secretary of health and human resources in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She has also served as the health and environmental policy advisor to Governor Tim Kaine.
- **Jesse Wells (08)** is an accomplished bluegrass musician who currently performs with notable recording artist Tyler Childers and has previously performed with the likes of Dr. Ralph Stanley, Town Mountain, The Wooks and Dirk Powell. He has been with the Kentucky Center for Traditional Music since its establishment in 2000, where he serves as an instructor, recording studio manager and manager of the center's Traditional Music Archives. His daughter Maddie accepted on his behalf.

Rising Eagle Award recipients for 2019 were:



Byron Burton (11, right) was awarded the Rising Eagle Award.



Jessica Farrell (16, right) was awarded the Rising Eagle Award.



Jared Ravenscraft

(16, right) was awarded the Rising Eagle Award.

- **Byron Burton (11)** is a screenwriter, songwriter and journalist who works in Los Angeles. He covers film and television for The Hollywood Reporter and recently composed a piece of music that was featured in 2016's "X-Men: Apocalypse."
- **Jessica Farrell (16)** went on to study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and received a degree in their interdisciplinary technology and policy program. Currently, she is working in Washington, D.C., as an engineer at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).
- **Jared Ravenscraft (16)** is the co-founder and co-owner of New Frontier Outfitters, a clothing line that promotes the Appalachian region and celebrates the culture and love of the outdoors.

The Eagle Spirit Award for 2019 was awarded to:



Vicki Collins

Blakeman (81, right) was awarded the Eagle Spirit Award.

- **Vicki Collins Blakeman (81)** is a native of Morehead. During college, Blakeman was a member of Chi Omega, a Sigma Phi Epsilon Little Sister, an MSU cheerleader and was crowned MSU Homecoming Queen in 1980. Since graduation, she has been a familiar face at all MSU events. To honor her late husband, Blakeman hosts an annual golf outing and designates all proceeds to the J.B. Blakeman Memorial Scholarship managed by the MSU Foundation.



Eagle students, faculty, staff, alumni and the Morehead community came out to Main Street to view the 2019 Homecoming Parade.

The MSU Homecoming Parade brought out alumni, students, faculty, staff and the community as it made its way down Main Street in downtown Morehead the morning of Saturday, Oct. 19. [View video](#)

Later that afternoon, the MSU Eagle football team defeated Butler with a final score of 31-20.



The 2019

Homecoming Queen and King were announced during halftime of the MSU football game. Pictured, left to right: MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan; Homecoming Queen Brianna Haynes, a junior from Morehead; Hunter Collins; a senior from West Liberty; and MSU First Lady Amber Morgan.

During halftime, Brianna Haynes, junior from Morehead, and Hunter Collins, senior from West Liberty, were crowned as this year's Homecoming Queen and King. Members of the Homecoming Court were Allie Hull (senior, Richmond), Hannah Layne (senior, Pikeville), Hannah McFarland (senior, Salyersville), Gabby Merrill (senior, Maysville), Luke Birkes (senior, Winchester), Devin Boggs (junior, Bardstown), Brent Parsons (sophomore, Grayson) and Larry Whelan (senior, Morehead).

Several organizations and groups also held reunions during Homecoming Weekend. There was an MSU Cheer Alumni Reunion, an African American Alumni Reunion and special class reunions and recognition were given to the Class of 1969 (50th anniversary), Class of 1979 (40th anniversary) and the Class of 1994 (25th anniversary). [View video](#)

MSU also held a Memorial Brick Ceremony at the Little Bell Tower Memorial Plaza to honor former faculty and staff who passed away during the last year for their years of faithful service given to the University. [View video](#)

Dr. William Green's influence on his students and his contribution to legal scholarship





Dr. William Green

After several years of teaching high school and college, Dr. William Green was sitting for the Kentucky bar review when he replied to a Morehead State University employment ad for an assistant professor of government and legal studies. After his MSU interview, he remembers having the following thought on his return to Lexington.

"As I'm driving back, I passed the Fayette County line. I said, 'Whew, that was a long trip. I'm glad I'm not

going to have to do that again,'" he said. "But I did."

In his 35th year as an MSU faculty member, Dr. Green has played a leading role in the MSU legal studies program. As a law school advisor, he created *Societas Pro Legibus*, MSU's campus-based legal studies society, authored a ten page brochure on *How to Take the LSAT and Go to Law School*, and advised students who were admitted to the top ten percent of the nation's law schools.

Dr. Green's published research explores constitutional, civil liberties, and environmental legal issues and the legal dimensions of economic development, labor relations, language rights, and pharmaceutical drug policies. His publications include four books, five book chapters, 25 journal articles, and 44 encyclopedia essays. His most recent book, *Contraceptive Risk: The FDA, Depo-Provera, and the Politics of Experimental Medicine*, was published by New York University Press in 2017.

He earned his law degree (J.D.) from the University of Kentucky College of Law. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the State University of New York at

Buffalo. And he received his M.A. in Political Science, B.S. in Education and B.A. in History, cum laude, from Kent State University.

At MSU, he has received the Distinguished Teaching Award and Distinguished Researcher Award. He also received the Internship Faculty of the Year Award for his recruitment and preparation of 75 MSU students who have participated in the five-week Canadian Parliamentary Internship Program.

In the past two years, Dr. Green was awarded the Distinguished Political Scientist Award by the Kentucky Political Science Association, donated his research archive on the contraceptive drug Depo-Provera to the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Harvard University, and is currently working on a book *Free the Grapes: The Supreme Court Boutique Wineries and State Alcohol Beverage Regulation*. As a professor emeritus, following his retirement from MSU in 2018, he is supervising the Canadian Parliamentary Internship Program for one more year.

In speaking with Dr. Green, 78, he remembered the experiences that shaped his development as a teacher and scholar. Here is a bit of what he had to say about devoting over half of his life to the study of law and the preparation of his students for law school and the practice of law.

On his teaching methods

In teaching his legal studies courses, he used panels of three or four students to analyze court cases and then held group discussions of hypothetical cases. As he said: "It was the experience of teaching government in high school, along with law school, that defined how I approach teaching. Giving students reading assignments, requiring them to answer questions on the readings and then to discuss them originated in high school. In law school, I experienced an active learning environment. Students had to be prepared to answer questions about why a court decided a case as it did."

On the importance of communication

Why did he require students to brief cases, research hypothetical problems, and then discuss them in class? As he told them: "Writing is thinking made visible and speaking is thinking made audible. You need both because these skills are critical for law school and for life."

On his relationship with his students

He knew all the students in his courses, because he questioned them about court cases and discussed the hypothetical problems he had assigned them. They did not use his first name in addressing him, nor did he use theirs in addressing them. "I referred to them as Mr. or Ms. and their last names to promote is a level of respect not just for those who teach, but also those who learn. In a professional relationship, this formality is the one indicator of respect.

On preparing his students for law school

Dr. Green used his legal studies courses to prepare his students for the rigors of law school: the enormous amount of reading and case analysis they would confront. "I told my students, 'my courses will give you a leg up on law school, because you will know how to brief a case and explain its reasoning. But even if you don't go to law school, briefing will give you a method for analyzing legal issues.'"

In studying the law, he reminded them what Oliver Wendell Holmes, a U.S. Supreme Court justice, once said: " 'The life of the law is not logic, it is experience.' You can reason from case to case, but the question is: does your reasoning make sense in the real world? That's a challenge you will confront and have to resolve."

He told them that law school is a very competitive environment. "Students who go to law school are really outstanding undergraduates, but when they get to law school, they find out everybody else had A's as undergraduates. So they've got to have guts and work really hard to get the best grades possible."

On his legal scholarship

In writing his books, articles and essays, he is grateful for his legal education, even though he did not become an attorney, because "the law teaches you to be very, very careful and to examine everything very closely in making a reasoned argument. Law school taught me to closely analyze as much evidence I could lay my hands on. Then, even if I were not completely satisfied with the argument I'd made, I was as confident as I could be in the strength of my argument given the time and the resources available to me."

On his intellectual companion

In his teaching, his wife was his intellectual companion. "It was with Rowena, a middle school teacher, that I discussed teaching and from whom, I learned so

much about how to teach. College faculty would benefit from talking to middle school teachers about their teaching methods and visit a middle school class.”

Rowena also played a critical role in his scholarship. “She read, corrected, and critiqued all my conference papers, articles, essays, and books. My book *Contraceptive Risk* profited from our discussions of health policy issues and female contraceptive methods. I would have found it very difficult to write the book without her assistance.”

On his legacy

Dr. Green doesn’t know how he will be remembered at Morehead, aside from his name on a list of distinguished teachers and researchers, but he added: “I’m sure I’m going to be remembered by my students. I only hope I taught them the skills to succeed in law and life.”

For more information about the Canadian Parliamentary Internship Program or MSU’s legal studies program, contact the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, International Studies and Legal Studies at hpil@moreheadstate.edu, 606-783-2655 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/hpil.

Lee elected vice president of National Bar Association

January 15, 2020
53



Nathaniel Lee

Ever since he started practicing law in Indianapolis, Indiana, **Nathaniel Lee (77)** has always made it a point to use his experience and influence to impact his profession and the community.

This year, the attorney and senior partner with the Indianapolis-based law firm Lee Cossell & Crowley, LLP, was elected vice president of the National Bar Association during the association's 94th annual convention in New York City. Lee now oversees the organization's capital campaign and assists the financial committee.

The National Bar Association was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and most extensive network of predominantly African American attorneys and judges. It represents the interests of approximately 65,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students.

Lee graduated from Morehead State with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1977 and a master's degree in 1978. He received a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Georgia in 1982. Lee has practiced in the Indianapolis

region since his bar admission and was instrumental increasing the number of African American lawyers in Indiana. He currently manages his law firm's operations while concentrating his practice in areas involving significant personal injury or death claims, medical negligence, defective products and police misconduct. He has litigated more than 150 jury trials.

He has served as chairman of the board of directors for the Marion County Bar Association, counsel to the Indiana Ronald McDonald House, and legal education director for the National Bar Association. Lee served as an advisor in President Barack Obama's election campaign in 2008 and re-election campaign in 2012. He was selected as one of the "100 National Top Trial Lawyers" by the American Trial Lawyers Association from 2007 to 2018.

Lee has also made it a point to give back to the community through his involvement in various community organizations and boards. This includes serving as chairman of the Lee Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization he founded that provides annual assistance to youth and families in greater Indianapolis and surrounding areas.

To learn more about the political science and legal studies programs at MSU, contact the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies at 606-783-2655, email hpil@moreheadstate.edu or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/hpil.

OVC honors 18 Eagles with academic medals of honor

January 15, 2020
47

Morehead State University student-athletes consistently display exceptional abilities in the areas of both athletics and academics. For the 2018-19 academic year, 18 MSU student-athletes were awarded the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Academic Medal of Honor.

The OVC Academic Medal of Honor is awarded to students who have a 4.0 GPA (or the highest GPA in their sport among conference students) and who participate in an OVC-sponsored sport.

MSU Volleyball had five student-athletes receive the award, the most out of all of the University's athletic programs this year. Volleyball was followed closely by rifle, who had three student-athletes receive awards.

The recipients of the award from each athletic program are below:

Baseball

Dalton Stambaugh

Women's Basketball

Darianne Seward (19)

Men's Cross Country

Jordan Carrington* (19)

*Also honored for Track & Field

Women's Cross Country

Alison Chinn* and Sydney Young*

*Also honored for Track & Field

Men's Golf

Mason McGhee and Joe Muschong

Women's Golf

Isabella Washka

Rifle

Brandon Bryer (19)

Alexa Potts

Amber Schifano

Women's Soccer

Colleen Swift

Softball

Peyton Slater

Men's Track & Field

Jordan Carrington*

*Also honored for Cross Country

Women's Track & Field

Alison Chinn* and Sydney Young*

*Also honored for Cross Country

Volleyball

Chandler Clark

Madison Fella (19)

Olivia Lohmeier
Olivia Montelisciani
Jessie Wachtman (19)



For more information on MSU Athletics, visit www.msueagles.com or call 606-783-2088.

Fall Commencement celebrates newest MSU graduates

January 15, 2020
38



Front row, from left: Emelyn Wells (19), Salt Lick; Shawntasia Butler (19), Clearfield; Kiana Gilbert (19), Louisville; Payne Rochelle (19), Louisville; K'sha Stoner (19), Louisville and Darianne Seward (19), Columbus, Ohio. Back row, from left: Allison Hull (19), Berea; Sydnee Bradley (19), Louisville; David Devaughn (19), Cincinnati, Ohio and Eulaun Beasley (19), Lexington.

Morehead State University's Office of Student Activities sponsored its 37th Rites of Passage recognition ceremony on Friday, Dec. 13, in the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) Ballrooms.

The purpose of the ceremony was to recognize and celebrate the academic achievement of minority and international students at MSU. Each student will receive a certificate, a gift and a special Kente stole.

Morehead State University honored nearly 600 degree candidates at the 2019 Fall Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Academic-Athletic Center.

Graduates were recognized by MSU President Dr. Joseph A. (Jay) Morgan, who offered a congratulatory handshake to each of those completing graduate and undergraduate degree requirements.



Sarah Young (19) of Fayetteville, Ohio, served as the student speaker for the ceremony.

Sarah Young (19) of Fayetteville, Ohio, served as the student speaker for the ceremony. She is the daughter of Fred “Marty” Young and Joyce Young. She graduated with two degrees, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies with a minor in philosophy.

Young has been a tutor with MSU’s Tutoring and Learning Center since October 2016. This year, she was awarded the Molly McBride Tutoring Excellence Award, the highest honor awarded to an MSU tutor. She has held executive positions in multiple student clubs and organizations.

Young plans to enroll in law school at the University of South Dakota, where she also may earn a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology. She has career goals to become a trial lawyer or a defense attorney in criminal law.

“THERE WERE DAYS WHERE WE WANTED TO, OR DID, SWITCH WHAT WE ONCE BELIEVED TO BE OUR DREAM MAJOR. HOWEVER, THAT IS WHAT MAKES OUR TIME HERE FORMATIVE. WE LEARNED TO FIGHT, ADJUST, ADAPT, AND OVERCOME. WE ARE HERE TODAY PROVING THAT WE COULD, AND WE DID. WE ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR, AND THAT IS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF.”

– Sarah Young



MSU

President Dr. Jay Morgan (left) and MSU Board of Regents chair Kathy Walker present John Price with an honorary degree awarded posthumously to his brother, Patrick, an alumnus and former regent.

An Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree was awarded to alumnus and former regent, **Patrick Eugene “Pat” Price (71)**, who passed away during the fall semester. The degree was accepted by his brother John Price.



Graduates

who were members of the MSU ROTC Eagle Battalion were commissioned as Army officers during commencement. Pictured from left to right are Jake E. Cogan (19), South Point, Ohio; Marvin R. Morris (19), Morehead; and Bailey Tutorow (19), Dry Ridge.

Following the ceremony, the newest alumni were inducted into the MSU Alumni Association Inc. by **Dr. Bob Albert (86)**, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Additional information on commencement exercises is available by calling 606-783-2008 or visiting www.moreheadstate.edu/graduation.

In Memoriam – Jan. 2020

To make a gift in memory of one or more of these individuals, call the Office of Alumni Relations & Development at 800-783-ALUM or visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu/give.



The Morehead State University family remembers ...

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Virginia K. Wheeler | 1944 |
| Edna M. Bartlett | 1948 |
| Paul F. Maddox | 1948 |
| William L. Plummer | 1950 |
| Jean P. Hill | 1951 |

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Edna M. Gearheart | 1952 |
| Janis C. Ellis | 1953 |
| Jesse S. Hogg | 1953 |
| Glenn T. Whitaker | 1953 |
| Anthony J. Allo | 1955 |
| Marye L. Cartee | 1956 |
| Jack D. Ellis | 1957 |
| Ruth J. Godfrey | 1957 |
| Thomas P. Rucker | 1957 |
| Billy W. Skaggs | 1957 |
| Betty R. Breeding | 1957 |
| Mary A. Bach | 1958 |
| Paul D. Hinkle | 1958 |
| Joyce L. Ward | 1958 |
| Larry P. Cameron | 1959 |
| Graydon L. Foreman | 1959 |
| George W. Connley | 1960 |
| Joel T. Horton | 1960 |
| Betty L. Borders | 1961 |

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Harry V. Weber | 1961 |
| Coleman C. White | 1961 |
| Larry N. Dales | 1962 |
| Richard F. Hammil | 1962 |
| Kay A. Wills | 1962 |
| David L. Holton | 1963 |
| Lydia M. Morgan | 1963 |
| Bette L. North | 1963 |
| Robert L. Prichard | 1963 |
| Freeda A. Tackett | 1963 |
| James A. Harris | 1964 |
| Roy A. Lucas | 1964 |
| Virginia D. Harris | 1965 |
| Bonnie T. Murray | 1965 |
| James E. Conley | 1965 |
| Loretta I. Kuyper | 1966 |
| R. D. Couchman | 1967 |
| Edward L. Taylor | 1967 |
| Frederick J. Vanderslice | 1967 |

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| John B. Dupuy | 1968 |
| Janet L. Johnson | 1968 |
| Luther C. Keeton | 1968 |
| Bruce A. King | 1968 |
| Walter J. Scott | 1968 |
| Eugene R. Sherman | 1968 |
| Joseph S. Skaggs | 1968 |
| Boneva P. Sweatman | 1968 |
| Cleveland R. Carson | 1969 |
| David L. Fleckenstein | 1969 |
| Lois A. Hackney | 1969 |
| Linda K. Hall | 1970 |
| Claudia M. Hicks | 1970 |
| Larry D. Stevens | 1970 |
| Charlene L. Clemons | 1971 |
| Kayleen N. Dunker | 1971 |
| William M. Fannin | 1971 |
| Adna J. Miller | 1971 |
| Patrick E. Price | 1971 |

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Ann L. Ramey | 1971 |
| William R. Sparks | 1971 |
| Philip A. Deeter | 1972 |
| Robert S. Justice | 1972 |
| Christopher McHugh | 1972 |
| Gerald D. Newsome | 1972 |
| Freddie E. Turner | 1972 |
| Vivian L. Houghton | 1974 |
| Stew Williams | 1974 |
| Bernice D. Howell | 1974 |
| Jim W. Welch | 1975 |
| Cecil W. Todd | 1975 |
| James L. Darby | 1976 |
| Keenan Ginter | 1976 |
| Alma S. Scott | 1976 |
| Raymond E. Helton | 1977 |
| Gary W. Auxier | 1978 |
| Lois S. Bradley | 1978 |
| Ben E. Jones | 1978 |

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Sheri D. Roe | 1978 |
| Kenneth M. Vencill | 1978 |
| Rita G. Colley | 1979 |
| John K. Hayes | 1979 |
| Dixie J. Overstake | 1979 |
| Carletta C. Murnane | 1980 |
| Marvin W. Wiley | 1980 |
| Marsha D. Martin | 1980 |
| Harold D. King | 1981 |
| Jack D. Early | 1982 |
| Carolyn F. Qualls | 1982 |
| Sara M. Allen | 1984 |
| Sarah E. Galliher | 1986 |
| John R. Holloway | 1989 |
| William J. Riley | 1989 |
| Mary L. Adkins | 1990 |
| Stacy L. Steward | 1990 |
| Oleta C. Jefferson | 1992 |
| Ronnie R. Baker | 1993 |

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Marcia H. Shrout | 1993 |
| Michael W. Moore | 1999 |
| Paula J. Allen | 2001 |
| Clarence C. Adkins | 2004 |
| Lavonna K. Sharpe | 2004 |
| Linkous G. Cisco | 2005 |
| Kendal R. Ray | 2008 |
| Jessica A. Buchanan | 2009 |
| Jared C. Murphy | 2011 |
| Nancy E. Metz | 2014 |
| Rees A. Justice | 2015 |
| Nickolas R. Bailey | 2018 |
| Darryl Ballard | ND |
| Jonathan Brock | ND |
| Donna H. Farace | ND |
| Nicholas R. Fromeyer | ND |
| Mattie H. Redwine | ND |
| Clyde E. Shytle | ND |
| Isabel Baker | * |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Guy Penny | * |
| Chad E. Webb | * |
| Danny D. Griggs | * |
| Roger Johnson | * |
| Glenn E. Johnston | * |
| Freda L. Kilburn | * |
| William F. Moore | * |
| Anna M. Riggle | * |
| Joe E. Winstead | * |

Amethyst Muncy prepares for law school possibilities after earning MSU's highest-ever LSAT score

January 15, 2020
717

As an undergraduate student at Morehead State University with plans to go to law school, Amethyst Muncy has what would be considered a rare thing: A good problem.

The good problem: Too many possibilities.

Muncy, a senior legal studies major and Spanish minor, finds herself in this positive predicament because of her score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The first time she nervously took the test, she earned a 160 out of a possible 180, a score that is unquestionably respectable and would help stamp

her ticket to law school. In July 2019, at a hotel in Huntington, West Virginia, she decided to take one more crack at it.

"The second time, I was like, whatever. I already got a good score, so I wasn't worried about it," she recalls. "I didn't study very much at all."

After completing the LSAT the second time, she was informed she earned a 169 out of 180, putting her in the 97th percentile of all testers. A month after the test, she started receiving emails in her inbox and letters in her mailbox from Yale, Duke, NYU, Notre Dame, Cornell University and other top-ranked law schools in the country asking her to apply.

"I can go anywhere I want now," she said, with equal parts pride and surprise.

Growing up as an only child in the small town of Louisa, Muncy's parents, Michael and Pam, knew they wanted their daughter to have a college education. Muncy certainly had an aptitude for academics, graduating from Lawrence County High School with a 4.0 as valedictorian.

She chose MSU because she liked the smaller size of the campus and the surrounding community and wanted to become a political journalist for NPR. She came to MSU on the Commonwealth Scholarship and after initially majoring in convergent media, she learned through film projects that she enjoyed the research more than the fieldwork. In the second semester of her freshman year, she switched her major to legal studies for both the career options in the legal field and the impact law has on society. She thinks the work that goes into being a good lawyer plays to her strengths as a student.

"I think I'm a good analytical thinker. I can look at all sides of an argument and I think it is fun to look at all sides of an argument," she said.

Since becoming a legal studies major, Muncy has excelled in her classes while forming close bonds with her professors. It was Dr. Dianna Murphy, associate dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and professor of legal studies, who inspired Muncy to minor in Spanish the same as she did.

"I THINK THE LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM DEFINITELY MAKES YOU READY FOR LAW SCHOOL BECAUSE IT TEACHES YOU HOW TO BE A PARALEGAL. I'VE BASICALLY TAKEN ALL THE CLASSES I'M GOING TO TAKE MY FIRST YEAR. ALL MY PROFESSORS

*TAUGHT ME REALLY WELL, SO I THINK I WILL DO REALLY WELL
IN LAW SCHOOL.”*

– Amethyst Muncy

Outside of the classroom, Muncy is a member of the Legal Studies Club and volunteers at the Pro Se Divorce Clinic in Morehead, a partnership with Legal Aid of the Bluegrass that helps provide legal assistance on divorce matters to members of underprivileged areas.

“I feel like if you’re from Eastern Kentucky or anywhere in Appalachia, really, you see a lot of disadvantaged people that don’t know the law well and don’t know their rights and you want to make a difference,” she said.

As she gets ready to graduate from MSU in the spring of 2020 and contemplates where to go to law school, Muncy is excited and nervous for what she is about to face, likely going from her usual small-town settings to a larger university and city. She said she would ultimately like to become a lawyer that works in civil rights or immigration, knowing the work she does could be a tremendous value for others.

“I think that money doesn’t really have a lot to do with it for me because I didn’t come from money or anything and I’ve had a great life,” she said. “I want to just try to help people in small ways or big ways if I can.”

To learn more about MSU’s legal studies program, contact the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies at hpil@moreheadstate.edu, 606-783-2655 or visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/legalstudies.

Katherine Griffitts makes her mark at Notre Dame law school

January 15, 2020

60



Katherine Griffiths

Morehead State graduates go on to continue their education at some of the world's most prestigious institutions, and **Katherine Griffiths (18)** is no exception. Currently in her second year at the Notre Dame Law School, she is the editor of the Notre Dame Law Review, a member of the Moot Court Board and is in the top 10 percent of her class. One of the things Griffiths said

prompted her to attend Notre Dame was the support law students there receive from alumni.

“Notre Dame alumni, from both the law school and the undergraduate level, go above and beyond to help current students get where they want to be,” Griffiths said. “I knew that if I went to Notre Dame, I would have this amazingly talented and educated group of individuals from all across the country at my back, supporting me and helping me to grow as an advocate and as a professional.”

While at MSU, Griffiths was a double major in English and legal studies. She said her interest in working in law began in high school when she worked part-time at a personal injury law firm in her hometown of Springfield. While attending MSU, Griffiths gained hands-on experience through working with Legal Aid of the Bluegrass and the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission. Last summer, she worked with a Superior Court judge, where she observed murder trials and other high-profile litigation, and a boutique government contracts litigation firm, where attorneys represented government contractors in breach of contract claims and bid protests against the government. This summer, Griffiths will have her most prestigious internship yet, working for Latham and Watkins LLP, the second-largest law firm in the country.

Griffiths went on to say the foundation she gained at MSU has jump-started her progress in law school.

“I CANNOT SING THE PRAISES OF THE MSU LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM ENOUGH. I LEARNED SO MUCH IN THOSE COURSES THAT PREPARED ME FOR LAW SCHOOL, LIKE LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING. THOSE PROFESSORS REALLY TOOK AN INTEREST IN MY SUCCESS AND HELPED TO GET ME WHERE I AM NOW. MY ENGLISH COURSES WERE ALSO SO HELPFUL IN REFINING MY WRITING SKILLS AND HELPING ME GET ACCUSTOMED TO THE SHEER VOLUME OF READING I DO IN LAW SCHOOL.”

– Katherine Griffiths

One of the things Griffiths said she likes best about law school is the people she's met, who have opened her eyes to a broad range of perspectives and viewpoints. She said the most challenging thing she's faced is the culture of being a law student.

"If you are not working, you feel guilty, and there is a lot of pressure to perform. But it is like a trial by fire; once you make it through it, you're stronger for it," she said.

Asked what advice she would give to someone considering attending law school, Griffiths said they shouldn't feel like they have to fit a specific mold to be successful.

"There are theatre majors, music majors, engineering majors and more in law school. You by no means have to major in political science or a legal-focused major," Griffiths said. "I would also say learn how to network. It took me a while to get comfortable with cold-emailing people to network, but it is something you have to do if you are trying to break into a market. Networking is also a skill you need once you are an attorney anyway, so develop that skill as early as possible."

While Griffiths has no concrete career plans, she has an interest in litigation and said a law degree opens up a wealth of opportunities for her.

"I went into law school knowing that I wanted to be a litigator. Beyond that, I am still figuring it out," she said. "There are so many different options you can pursue with a legal career. You can try to make partner, you can run to be a judge, you can become in-house counsel, or you could move up in the government. I'm going to do my best and see where my career takes me."

For information about MSU's Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/hpil, email hpil@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2655.

For Whelans, MSU is a family tradition



From left, Charlie, Rick, Rhonda, Rachel and Larry Whelan.

For **Rick (90)** and **Rhonda Whelan (18)**, Morehead State University is a way of life. And it all began at a fraternity/sorority event more than 30 years ago. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon while she had joined Delta Gamma.

"My sorority sister was dating an SAE and wanted me to go with her," Rhonda said. "I got introduced to Rick and we began dating within a month. We really hit it off, spent a lot of time together and the rest, as they say, is history."

But Rick and Rhonda's relationship almost didn't happen because neither had intentions of attending MSU. As a senior at Dixie Heights High School (Fort Mitchell) in 1986, Rick was a soccer player who planned to enroll at the University of Cincinnati. But Morehead State got involved late and a meeting with the coaching staff convinced him that MSU was the better fit.

As for Rhonda, the 1987 graduate of Breathitt County High School was headed to Eastern Kentucky University to run track. She then learned of the many opportunities available at MSU, including a leadership grant, housing scholarship and other assistance that would pay for her college. It was simply too good to pass up.

Both Rick and Rhonda made the most of their time in Morehead. He was a two-time president of SAE, president of MSU's Interfraternity Council and served as a representative on the Student Government Association.

"Honestly, Greek life is what kept me at MSU," Rick said. "Had I not been so involved with all the extracurriculars, I would've likely gone home and not come back."

In contrast, Rhonda spent much of her time off-campus to complete the necessary clinical hours for her radiology degree.

In December of 1990, following Rick's graduation, he and Rhonda were married. Rick had earned a bachelor's degree (radio-television major) while she completed an associate's degree in radiology, desiring to be on the academic fast track so to join the workforce.

Rick opted for a career in finance while Rhonda continued with radiology. They moved to Nicholasville, Lexington and eventually to Villa Hills in northern Kentucky. But still, the couple regularly visited Morehead.

"We'd go to Cave Run Lake and Lockegee just to enjoy the peacefulness of the area," Rhonda said. "It was good to get away from honking horns and the busy highways in and around Cincinnati."

But in 2002, life would take an unexpected turn for the Whelan's. Rick was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a disease in which the immune system attacks the protective covering of nerve fibers. Soon, those 'peaceful' visits back to Morehead took on a whole new meaning—they became therapeutic.

"Honestly, I just felt better when we came here—I was healthier and happier. Soon, it became apparent we needed to move back to Morehead."

The Whelan's made the move in 2004 and immediately knew it was the right one.

"It took us almost 30 years to find home, but this is definitely it," Rhonda said. "Now when we go to the lake and Lockegee, Rick and I fall in love all over again."



The Whelan family gathered for Homecoming. Pictured from left, Rick, Larry, Rhonda, Rachel and Charlie.

This MSU love story has produced a second generation of Whelans. Larry, a former standout athlete at Rowan County Senior High School, is a senior business marketing major at MSU. He's an Eagle Guide for Enrollment Services and is set to graduate in May of 2020. Like Rick, Larry is also the president of SAE, making the Whelan's the first father and son to serve in that capacity of the local chapter.

"It's great to follow in my dad's footsteps, it's something to be really proud of," Larry said.

The middle child, Charlie, is a freshman business management major at MSU. Rick had the honor of recently pinning his son at the SAE induction ceremony. The youngest of the Whelan children is Rachel, an eighth-grader at Rowan County Middle School. She also plans to be an MSU Eagle.



Rhonda graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2018. Pictured from left, Rick, Rhonda, Larry, Charlie and Rachel Whelan. As for the most recent academic achievement by the Whelan's, that would be Rhonda, who returned to school in 2018 to complete her bachelor's degree online.

"It had always bothered me because I didn't get the four-year degree. But now it's done and there's a sense of accomplishment. It's a good feeling."

The Whelans love everything about Morehead State University—the educational opportunities, the people, school spirit, and the list goes on and on. The family got its start at MSU and wants to be a part of the institution for years to come. In fact, Larry hopes his first job comes at his soon-to-be alma mater.

"I'd love to continue my work in admissions following graduation to recruit future Eagles to MSU. It's been such a big part of our family and I want other students to enjoy the same experiences."

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MSU grads achieve success in law school

January 15, 2020
338

Many graduates of Morehead State go on to professional schools, including law schools throughout the country. We caught up with some recent grads and alumni to see how they're doing now.



Brandon Bryer

Brandon Bryer (19) is attending the University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Law. He was a government major. Bryer was actively involved on campus while at MSU, serving in the Student Government Association (SGA) all four years and as president his senior year. He was a member of the MSU Rifle Team, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, the Pre-Law Society and served as a residence hall advisor.

While Bryer hasn't chosen a specialty field of practice, he said he is interested in civil litigation and said he hopes to one day work as a general counsel in higher education. Law school students are ranked by performance at the end of each school year, and Bryer said he has been working hard to earn a top spot on the list. He said that, while many students don't like the competitive nature of law school, he thrives on it.

"You don't just learn the surface stuff; you have to dig deep down into the material. It always comes down to who can rise to the top. In the end, it brings out the best in us," he said.

While Bryer admits the workload can be challenging, he said MSU prepared him to meet the challenges he now faces. He said the curriculum of his classes gave him solid foundational information that made the transition to law school easier. He praised Dr. William Green, professor emeritus of political science, for using teaching methods that are used in law school like "cold calling," where a professor fires questions at students to make sure they've read and understood their coursework.

"The way he approached it is the same way we do it in law school," he said. "He knew just the way to prepare us. I had a thorough, broad academic experience at MSU that could not have prepared me better for this."



Lincoln Caudill (13) is in his second year at the Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University. He earned three degrees from MSU, an associate degree in construction management in 2011, a bachelor's degree in university studies in 2013 and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) in 2015. He was active in Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and the Interfraternity Council (IFC), SGA, Student Alumni Ambassadors (SAA), the Photography Club and the MSU Young Democrats.

While Caudill has not yet chosen a specialty, he said he's interested in business and property law. His goal is to return to Morehead and either become a partner or start his own local law firm. Caudill said the thing he enjoys most about law school is that it isn't easy.

"I embrace the rigor and challenge because it allows me to grow intellectually," he said. "Antiquated and complex legal theories are the base of most legal study but it is important to understand where the law we use today originated, why it has changed, and how to apply it to real-world scenarios in the hopes that the outcome comports with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. I love that it is hard. It makes me feel like I earn every grade and I truly appreciate the things that I have learned."

Caudill said that one thing he finds particularly challenging about law school is learning to decipher “legalese.”

“The vocabulary used in most of my legal reading has been difficult to get used to. Latin is sprinkled generously into most casebooks and legal ‘terms of art’ are important to understand because once they appear in the law, they often continue to be used,” he said, adding MSU prepared him for law school by teaching him the value of working hard and sticking with a task until it’s done.

“The experiences of many engaging and thought-provoking classes gave me the best preparation. The bottom line is that law school is tough and very challenging, mentally and physically,” he said. “I never expected it to be easy but perseverance and hard work, two things I picked up on early at MSU, have gotten me through a lot in life and have gotten me this far in law school. I know that what I am able to accomplish in the future will be because of the foundation and support I have received from the people and practices of Morehead State University.”



Kennedy Womack

Kennedy Womack (17) is also attending the UC College of Law. She was a double-major in government and philosophy and was active in numerous student organizations, including serving as president of the Pre-Law Society and as vice president for finance and executive vice president of SGA. She was also a member of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority and was a two-time member of the MSU Homecoming Court.

Currently in her third year of law school, Womack is specializing in criminal law, international law and civil rights law, and she interned at the American Civil

Liberties Union of Washington in Seattle. Her goal is to work as a public defender, but she's also interested in international human rights work or high-impact civil rights litigation. Womack said she loves the hands-on aspects of law school.

"UC Law offers externship and clinic opportunities, which give students the chance to work in a field of interest and work with clients directly," she said. "It is wonderful to see firsthand what being a lawyer really is like, and I think it puts things into perspective for why a person chooses to attend law school in the first place, which for me is to represent those who often are slighted or written off by society."

Womack said one of the most significant challenges she's dealt with while in law school is learning how to dig deeper into a subject to fully understand the concepts it entails, but her work at MSU prepared her well for the rigors of law school.

"A lot of times in undergrad, you just need to memorize or be able to understand things at a surface level," Womack said. "In law school, the objective is to be able to grasp concepts in a much deeper capacity and apply them to real-life problems. Those courses in my department jump-started my knowledge of case-reading, analyzing hypothetical situations and statutory interpretation."

For more information on the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies and Legal Studies, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/hpil, email hpil@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2655.

Whether by writing grants or
teaching, Dr. Lisa Shannon hopes
to improve life for people in
Eastern Kentucky

Growing up in Louisa, Dr. Lisa Shannon, associate professor of social work at Morehead State University, is familiar with the lack of resources and the poverty that oftentimes comes with growing up in Eastern Kentucky.

Now, with a proficiency in grant writing, a passion for teaching and a purposeful mentality, she's found a few ways to do something about it.

She initially wanted to be a psychologist and graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Kentucky in 2000. When working on her senior honors thesis, she was presented with an opportunity to work as a research assistant for the first-ever Kentucky Drug Court Evaluation conducted by the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research at UK. As part of this project, she was able to travel around the state and interview those involved with and affected by the program itself. With the guidance of UK professor Dr. T.K. Logan, she enrolled in the university's Master's in Social Work program (earning that degree in 2003) and earned a Ph.D. in Social Work from UK in 2007.

Upon earning a doctorate degree, Shannon took a Research Title Series faculty position at the UK Department of Behavioral Science/Center on Drug and Alcohol Research. Related to her past work experience and collaborative relationships, she began writing grants with the hopes of gaining federal funding to enhance services for Kentucky's Drug Courts.

"I always thought the drug court program was just an amazing program because it gave individuals with substance abuse issues who have been involved in the criminal justice system the chance to get treatment instead of going to prison," Shannon said. "Those experiences (interviewing program participants) really impacted me. So, when the opportunity came try to get more funding for the program, it was something I felt really strongly about."

In collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Shannon has written more than 31 grants to enhance funding for Kentucky Drug Courts and other specialty courts (e.g., Veterans Treatment Courts, Mental Health Courts, DUI Courts) during her time at both UK and MSU. Over the past 10 years, Shannon's grant writing has helped the AOC to receive approximately \$10 million in federal funding.

"I think out of all the grants we have written, there's only been a handful that haven't been funded," she said. "We've been very, very successful."

Despite her success in grant writing, Shannon says she also wants to utilize her education and her skill set to benefit the Commonwealth in a different way.

"While I enjoyed (grant writing and research), I also wanted to do something else. That's how I ended up applying to Morehead State," she said.

In 2010, Shannon initially was hired as tenure-track assistant professor. She teaches social work courses primarily at MSU Prestonsburg, just over 40 miles away from her hometown.

She continues to collaboratively write grants with the AOC toward the goal of acquiring additional funding for Kentucky Drug Courts and other specialty courts while also serving as the secretary on the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) Board of Directors Executive Committee.

Shannon has found an additional purpose in the classroom as she hopes to thoroughly prepare the next generation of social workers to go out and make an impact in an area that has a special place in her heart.

"Being from Eastern Kentucky originally, I wanted to help educate and serve the area I grew up in," she said. "I get the opportunity to educate students from an area where I know resources are slim and educational opportunities are highly important."

Dr. Lisa Shannon can be reached at l.shannon@moreheadstate.edu or at 606-783-2638.

For more information about social work programs at Morehead State, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/study/socialwork, email d.murphy@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-2656.

Sabie Womack fights to protect children

January 15, 2020
318



Mona Womack

When **Mona Sabie Womack (86)** first came to MSU, she dreamed of becoming a doctor. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology, was a member of the MSU tennis team for four years and was a member of Delta Gamma

Sorority. She was also crowned MSU homecoming queen in 1984. After graduating, Womack applied to dental school at the University of Louisville (U of L). However, her admissions interview was a turning point that gave her a new direction.

“During the admissions process, you have an interview with faculty members, and one of them said to me, ‘you know, you talk a lot, and we generally don’t talk a lot in the dental profession. You should consider going to law school.’ So, I applied and was accepted to law school,” Sabie Womack said.



Mona (Sabie) Womack was MSU Homecoming Queen in 1984. She’s pictured here with her date, Troy Putnam, at the homecoming dance.

After graduating from the Brandeis School of Law at U of L, she worked as a judicial law clerk for Circuit Judge Stephen Hayden in Henderson County before accepting a position with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), where she has worked for the last 25 years. Though becoming a lawyer wasn’t her original plan, she said she loves what she does.

"I knew working here would be family law-based, and I was interested in that," she said. "It's a great place to work."

She currently serves as deputy general counsel for the CHFS Office of Legal Services, where she supervises 27 attorneys and five support staff members. Her focus is on the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS), and aside from answering legal questions from DCBS offices and social workers across the Commonwealth, she also serves as counsel for CHFS and DCBS social workers in court when they are sued, which is typically the result of children being removed from a parent's home by DCBS.

One of Sabie Womack's duties is overseeing adoption cases for children who are placed in foster care after being removed from their parents' custody, and she said those cases are the ones she finds most rewarding.

"The 27 lawyers I supervise do an area of law called termination of parental rights. That's how we get kids who can't go home because their parents haven't fixed their issues, adopted. We are one piece in the process that puts kids in loving adoptive homes," she said. "It's great to know a child is going to have a good life and a good home."

Thinking back on her time at MSU, Sabie Womack said one of the most important things she learned was how to interact with people she didn't necessarily have a lot in common with.

"I think the thing I learned that I still carry with me today is how to build a relationship with people who are different from me," she said. "At MSU, the classes are small, so you can't hide like at a bigger school. You have to talk to your professors and classmates, and that has helped me learn to build relationships with people from different backgrounds and personalities. Most of my friends today are friends I have from MSU."

Womack is the president-elect of the MSU Alumni Association.

To become a member of MSU's Alumni Association, visit alumni.moreheadstate.edu.